



*Fairfax County*  
**Department of Family Services**

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## **Overwhelming Response from Child Care Providers in Operation Child Care**

**May 13, 2004** – On May 10, 2004, the Fairfax County Office for Children sent out an electronic phone message to thousands of local child care providers to invite them to participate in Operation Child Care, a nationwide effort to offer child care services for National Guard and Reserve members home on Rest and Recuperation Leave. Operation Child Care was launched on this day around the nation by the National Association for Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies (NACCRRA) – The Nation’s Network of Child Care Resource & Referral Organizations.

Within minutes the phones started ringing. Two days later over 80 providers had called to register for Operation Child Care in Fairfax County. “We are thrilled with the response of our local child care community!” said Maria Elena Martinez who works with Office for Children staff who regularly visit county child care programs.

Operation Child Care is a voluntary program to support the short-term child care needs of National Guard and Reserve members coming home from Iraq or Afghanistan for 2 weeks of Rest and Recuperative (R & R) Leave. By donating a minimum of four hours of child care, child care providers who participate in Operation Child Care will allow military members to take care of personal business, take their spouses out to dinner, or enjoy other activities.

Providers who volunteer and are called to provide the child care services will receive: certificates of appreciation signed by an appropriate Military General Officer, an entry into The Honor Roll of Child Care Providers that will be submitted for publishing in the Congressional Record, lapel pins, merchandise credit, coupon books and other items from national sponsors, and other benefits.

Local service members who use Operation Child Care will be referred by NACCRRA’s Child Care Aware to the Office for Children’s Child Care Assistance and Referral (CCAR) program. CCAR will then

a list of legally operating, licensed or permitted child care providers who have volunteered for Operation Child Care as well as information about selecting quality child care.

For more information, please call Dan Dildine (703) 324-8042. Additional information is also available on the Operation Child Care section of NACCRRRA's Child Care Aware Web site,

<http://www.childcareaware.org> or by calling the Child Care Aware® hotline at 1-800-424-2246.

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